



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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\$4 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR TRIBAL COLLEGES

--FUNDS TO DEVELOP ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Lincoln, Neb., April 18—The Rural Housing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the \$4 million Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) referred to as the Tribal College Initiative. These national competitive grant funds are available to eligible tribal colleges for the development of essential community facilities in rural communities.

Eligible Tribal colleges are those 1994 land-grant institutions that have met the criteria under the Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994. Additional regulatory requirements must also be met in order to qualify.

Grant funds may be used to develop facilities in communities with a population of 20,000 or less. Facilities would include medical clinics, transitional housing, administrative office buildings, childcare centers, libraries, museums, food preparation centers, fire trucks, and other essential community facilities.

The USDA Rural Development State office will determine applicant eligibility. Once eligibility is established, the preapplication is evaluated competitively and points awarded as specified in the project selection priorities. The preapplication is then submitted to the National Office to compete for funding consideration.

Projects are limited to \$200,000. Projects will be selected on a national competitive basis, with two windows of opportunity to compete for the funds. It is anticipated that the first 16 round of funding selections will be made after May 10, 2002 with the second round occurring after August 23, 2002. To be considered for the first window, all preapplications along with supporting documentation must be received by the Norfolk USDA Rural Development Area office by close of business April 30, 2002 and by August 13, 2002 for the second window. Projects not selected for funding consideration for the first round will remain eligible to compete for the next round of funding.

Entities wishing to apply for assistance in Nebraska should contact the USDA Rural Development Area office Attn. Dale Wemhoff, Rural Development Manager 1909 Vicki Lane Suite 103 Norfolk, Nebraska 68701 or phone (402) 371-5350. You may also contact the USDA Rural Development State Office Attn. Denise Brosius-Meeks, Business & Community Program Director, Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 or phone 402-437-5559. The Tribal College Initiative NOFA can be located at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/2002/cfp040402.txt>.

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